

The DOER needs to bring together practical scientists and research analysts, not just public opinion. The public rarely even hears about the most sustainable alternatives and often gets confused between wood burning biomass, biofuels from vegetable oils, and biomass to methane or "cow power". It is those latter two new clean power sources that we need to utilize in Western MA to replace the VT Yankee Nuclear Facility. (We only use about 200MW of VT Yankee's power so this is not alot, especially if we create some wind and small hydropower, too.) When is the biodiesel plant in Greenfield going to be built by CO-OP Power? It is simply waiting for funding but not getting it because??????This would help create clean and local fuel for diesel vehicles and for heating and prevent people from using so much electricity for transportation and heating.

Greenhouse gases like methane are being produced by both the local farms as well as from food processing wastes and garbage and plant wastes that currently just rot in landfills, etc. We could be digesting these materials in the latest new digesters thus creating clean methane that could then be burned to produce electricity. This would be steady as a back up for other clean power sources that are criticized because they don't create "baseload" power.

Also the brush and tree branches and waste-wood and softwood that cannot be used for woodstoves or building materials, could be pressed into high quality pellets for pellet stoves. This could be done in many locations so that energy is not wasted in transporting materials to the pellet pressing areas and so as to create jobs in many locations.

Burning wood and biomass is NOT the answer. It will create MORE CO₂, not less, and it will remove live trees that could be absorbing CO₂.

Please carefully consider these ideas in your plan. I speak for hundreds of others in Western MA who did not have time to respond!

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I am a member of Mass Audubon, Champaign Hikers, Katywil Ecovillage, and West County Resiliency and all concerned about global climate change, air pollution, chain saw noise, heavy trucks on our windy and steep roads, and the gradual destruction of our the forests in Western MA.